

RADIO STAMPS  
by  
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Prepared for the "DX Partyline" Program  
Radio Station HCJB, Quito, Ecuador

Program 7

Introduction

Hello, and welcome again to another edition of "Radio Stamps". If you're a regular listener to the program, welcome back for the first feature of 1991. If you're listening for the first time, a special welcome to you. "Radio Stamps" is a monthly program all about the fun of collecting stamps from around the world on the topic of radio. There are dozens of radio subjects you can collect on stamps, including radio stations and amateur radio. Collecting radio stamps is another great way to enjoy the radio hobby.

Regular features on this program include descriptions of stamps you can collect and discussions of radio subjects on stamps. I also have contests to win radio stamps for your collection.

I hope you'll join me each month, here on HCJB. I also hope you'll write to me with your news for the program, and your comments. I'll give you my mailing address here in Almonte at the end of this feature.

Morse Code on Stamps

The last time, on program 6, I featured the unique stamp and first day cover from Australia, issued in 1989, for the 50th anniversary of Radio Australia. This month the subject is morse code on stamps.

As you tune around on the radio bands, you can hear many transmissions in the dots and dashes of morse code. You can hear amateur radio communications, ship to shore transmissions, and even the secret messages of embassies. There are many morse code messages hidden on postage stamps too. I know of at least 57 stamps, from 24 different countries, that have morse code messages. They'd certainly make great additions to any collection of radio stamps.

Here's an example you can look for. On February 17, 1956, the United Nations issued a set of two stamps. They have denominations of 3c and 8c, and were issued to honour the International Telecommunications Union. The Scott catalogue numbers for these stamps are 41 and 42. Across the middle of each stamp, in morse code dots and dashes, is spelled "ITU" and "UIT". These are the English and French abbreviations for the Union. I use this example as an introduction because the morse code is easy to find.

Here's another set you can collect, but at first glance you may not even notice the morse code. On October 7, 1953, New Zealand issued two semi-postal stamps. One shows girl guides marching, and the other shows boy scouts at camp. The Scott catalogue numbers are B42 and B43. That's "b" as in baker. If you look really close, especially with a magnifying glass, you'll see morse code messages along the top border of the girl guide stamp, and around the complete border of the boy scout issue.

I thought it would be fun to start 1991 with another contest. I have two great prizes for you, thanks to Paul Washa of Mound, Montana. Paul has a business that produces T-shirts with a large reproduction of the amateur radio stamp issued by the United States in 1964, Scott catalogue number 1260. I featured this stamp on program 3 last year, along with a contest to win a first day cover.

It's the only T-shirt in the world that I know of that has a radio stamp on it. If you'd like to win one of these two great T-shirts, write to me with the spelling of the morse code messages on the two New Zealand stamps. The date of issue again is October 7, 1953, and the Scott catalogue numbers are B42 and B43. The correct answers will be entered in a draw, and two winners will be announced on program 9.

If you'd like information about ordering this unique radio stamp T-shirt for yourself, or as a gift, please write to: Paul Washa, 4916 Three Points Boulevard, Mound, Montana, 55364-1245, U.S.A.

Normally there isn't time on this short feature to acknowledge letters from listeners. I'm making an exception today because of a special letter I received from Pete Keon, of California in the United States. Pete wrote to say that he used to live here in the small town of Almonte. When he turned on his new shortwave radio for the first time in December, he was amazed to pick up HCJB from Ecuador, and then discover he was listening to a Canadian feature that was actually produced in Almonte. If you check your atlas, you'll find that Almonte is small town, with a population of about 4000, in the eastern part of the Province of Ontario. It's located on the Mississippi River, about 50 km west of Ottawa, the capital city of Canada. A special hello today to Pete Keon, formerly of Almonte, who tuned in the "Radio Stamps" program on HCJB the first time he used his shortwave radio! That's a great story Pete, and I hope you'll write again.

That's all for this program. Don't forget to send in your contest entry. I'd also be grateful to receive news for the program, and your comments. As promised, here's my mailing address in that famous town of Almonte: Neil Carleton, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, Ontario, K0A 1A0, Canada. Until the next time, best wishes for good listening and collecting.